



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE RED CROSS



IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

THE equinox of March, 1913, was marked with a series of disasters which served to bring the nation to a realizing sense of the uncertainty of human affairs, for while we pursued our various peaceful occupations, without warning we were called upon to face the appalling destruction of tornado, flood, fire and disease, and to render the aid for which the Red Cross stands.

For nearly four years the nursing service of the Red Cross has been growing from a small handful to nearly four thousand nurses pledged to meet such unhappy events to the best of their ability. It is yet too early to estimate the measure of the work accomplished, but already we are assured that the plan of organization works, and in spite of the almost complete destruction both of railway and telegraph service, the initiative and ability of the various committees of Red Cross nurses gave almost immediately to afflicted communities a high grade of nursing service.

When news of the Omaha disaster was received in Washington, efforts were at once made to reach the chairman of the Omaha committee on Red Cross Nursing Service. All telegraph wires except one belonging to the United Press were down. This was placed at our disposal and in a few hours communication was established with Lillian Stuff, acting chairman of the local committee, and authority was given her to call out Red Cross nurses and to organize such relief work as lay in her power. The account of this work can best be told in her own words, and we regret that it is impossible to give the report in full:

"OMAHA, Neb. Storm occurred March 23, 1913, at 6 P.M., and lasted only 20 seconds. Volunteer service began immediately. Telegram of inquiry answered promptly. Hospitals full of injured. Early Monday morning Red Cross local committee reported for duty in Mayor's office and advised all departments of relief and newspapers that we could care for injured and homeless. One hundred and fifty cots placed in large gymnasium. We are dressing injuries, giving out supplies, and caring for anything in our line. Miss Kegler, an enrolled nurse, lost everything except her life and her badge. I have lost my pin, No. 1043. We are anxious in every way to do creditable work. Hospitals are full and outside cases of pneumonia and contagion are developing, and there is greater demand for us than before."



MISS LILLIAN B. STUFF AND GROUP OF RED CROSS NURSES WHO ASSISTED IN RELIEF WORK, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.



ARTHUR E. DUNN

VIEW OF SECTION OF OMAHA AFTER CYCLONE.

With the horror of the Omaha situation still fresh in our minds, word came to us over press wires, late Tuesday night, March 25, that Dayton was flood engulfed and burning to the water's edge. The loss of life was then estimated at 5000. North Dayton was completely cut off from the outside world and communication even with Columbus and Cincinnati was well-nigh impossible. Telegram after telegram was sent to local committees, and on March 26 a message came through from Cincinnati concerning the assignment of their own Red Cross nurses to duty. This was quickly followed by requests from Cincinnati and Dayton for more nurses. During the first 48 hours following the flood, 77 Cincinnati nurses were assigned to duty by the local Red Cross committee, and during the next 48 hours, 136 nurses had reached the flooded area, from cities most likely to have established railway communication. In the effort to reach their destination trains were sometimes abandoned and automobiles pressed into service. Bridges were crossed only to be condemned the moment after; engines crept along through water reaching almost to the fire-box; but the groups of nurses accepted these dangers and discomforts without question, anxious only to report for duty.

Cincinnati is naturally the base of relief work in southern Ohio, and in connection with its preparedness to meet this appalling calamity has occurred one of those extraordinary events, which we call providential, and that cannot fail to remind us that some higher power guides our stumbling steps. For many years Cincinnati has been blessed with the activities of a woman of whom it might be said that she is one of its most valuable citizens. Three months ago, Miss Annie Laws, after years of public work, conceived the idea of co-ordinating the activities of the Red Cross Chapter of Cincinnati and the Nursing Service, and for this purpose established offices with a Red Cross nurse in charge, which became the headquarters of all Red Cross interests in Cincinnati.

The chairman of the National Committee and ten Red Cross nurses left Washington Friday, March 28, at midnight, on a special relief train sent out by the Washington Post. Since Miss Isabel McIsaac's appointment as superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps and a member of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, we have relied upon her counsel and co-operation, and through her familiarity with the details of this branch of Red Cross work, it was easy to turn over to her, with only a few hours' notice, the conduct of the office work, thus making it possible for the chairman to personally supervise the distribution of Red Cross nurses.

We reached Cincinnati Sunday morning at 6 o'clock, and found the most perfect co-operation between the local chapter, the nursing service

committee, and various relief agencies. Too much cannot be said of the splendid work done by Miss Laws, secretary of the Cincinnati Red Cross Chapter; Miss Greenwood, chairman of the Local Committee on Nursing Service; Miss Reinecke, Red Cross nurse in charge of headquarters and many others associated with them. The nursing situation had been placed absolutely under their control, and while it was impossible to meet all the early demands with enrolled nurses, with the exception of one group sent out the first day, they were responsible for the selection of all nurses, and in every instance a Red Cross nurse was placed in charge.

The following telegram gives briefly the assignment to duty of Cincinnati nurses: "Dayton 58, Hamilton 15, Miamisburg 3, Glendale 1. More still needed. Transportation is difficult. Cincinnati conditions becoming serious. Be prepared for further needs."

On March 26, while the greater part of the city was still under water, Mary D. Wilson was sent to Dayton to take charge of all nurses assigned to that city, and remained on duty until worn out and relieved by a group of Red Cross nurses from Cleveland, in charge of Mary E. Gladwin. Miss Githens, chairman of the Dayton Local Committee, was in the flooded district, but reported for duty as soon as possible with other Dayton nurses. Miss Wilson in her report says:

"The work in the relief stations on March 27 was very active, but difficulty in getting accurate reports. One station which did not seem to be the busiest cared for 400 people. The character of the work done by the nurses consisted in administering to the bodily wants of many suffering from cold, long-continued exposure, starvation, and general exhaustion. There were a limited number of cases suffering from acute conditions resulting from accidents and exposure. The people were brought in from flooded districts wet to the skin, having been without food for 48 hours or more, from homes in which there was no heat, the weather being very severe. The second 24 hours of service in the relief stations established consisted chiefly in dispensing food, clothing, and affording places of rest for the homeless."

The part played by the National Cash Register people, under the direction of John H. Patterson, president of the company, in organizing the relief work in Dayton, is a matter of history, and but for this establishment the early work of the nurses in Dayton would have been impossible.

On the same day that Miss Wilson was sent to Dayton, Abbie Roberts went to Hamilton to take charge of the nursing service there, and was among the very first to reach that city after the flood. We regret the necessity of abbreviating her most interesting report:

"We reported at 7 P.M. to the relief station which was located at a dance hall on the outskirts of the city, at the water's edge. Shelter for the night was provided for us by one of the residents. Two emergency calls were received that night, and one of these cases I do not believe could have lived had immediate care not been given. The following morning at daybreak it was seen that the water had receded, and that the work could begin. I called at Red Cross headquarters, in charge of Dr. Hendley. He advised that a relief station at once be established at the Mosler Safe & Lock Co., and detailed four of his men to assist me. Twenty cots and one-half of our medical supplies were at once installed, and the hospital placed in charge of two physicians and a Red Cross nurse, Cynthia Richardson. This hospital was ready to receive patients at 8.30 A.M.

"At 9 o'clock word came that an emergency hospital was needed in the centre of the town. The remainder of our cots, blankets, and medical supplies were put on auto trucks and taken to the second floor of the Rentchler Building as directed. Within five minutes we were told the hospital could not be established there and were told to move to the second floor of an office building one-half square distant. This was done. Within fifteen minutes a second order was received to move our supplies to a school building one square away. This order was also obeyed. We realized that this building was entirely unfit for hospital purposes, but the Methodist church across the way had a perfectly-equipped kitchen, two cook-stoves, and plenty of hot water awaiting us. We ordered ourselves into this building, which action was later approved, and were ready to receive patients at 11 A.M. The patients at once began to arrive. Twenty-three were admitted the first afternoon; 21 the second day, and 9 the third, making a total of 53 bed patients cared for. A first-aid room was also installed where from 40 to 50 surgical cases were dressed daily. We also had a medical dispensary.

"Mercy Hospital was in water to the second floor, and without heat or light until Saturday at noon. We then lent all our efforts to getting the hospital in such condition that the acutely ill patients could be transferred there. Sunday afternoon the first word was received from the west side. We found Olive Fisher in charge of an emergency hospital located in one of the school buildings. Supplies and two nurses were sent to her. The greatest suffering for the first 48 hours was from lack of heat and water. The temperature of the ward was 26°, and great hardships were endured by the nurses until Saturday night, when it was possible to send them into Glendale to sleep."

The groups of Red Cross nurses sent to the flooded districts during the second 48 hours were in charge of: Mary C. Wheeler, Marie T. Phelan, Helen Kelly, and Mrs. Pearl Ringland, all of Chicago; Emily McLaughlin, of Detroit; Mary E. Gladwin, of Akron; Ella P. Crandall, of New York; Vashti Bartlett, of Washington, D. C.; and Julia C. Stimson, of St. Louis. As these nurses are still on duty and final reports are not yet in, an account of their work will be given in a later issue of the JOURNAL.